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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hirohiko Hirochika et al.
Application No. : 09/721,114 Confirmation No. : 2997
Orig. Filing Date : November 22, 2000
RCE Filing Date : December 12, 2002
For : NOVEL GENE INVOLVED IN BRASSINOSTEROID RESPONSES
Group Art Unit : 1634
Examiner : Juliet C. Einsmann

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New York, New York 10020
December 12, 2002

Box RCE
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, Virginia 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified RCE patent application, applicants respectfully request consideration of this case in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Applicants file an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith.

Kindly amend the application as follows:

FY133109564US